(c) Developing new markets for exports is a continuous process for which, Government through agencies such as Commodity Boards, Authorities and Export Promotion Councils constantly endeavours

(d) In order to ensure growth of export of agri products, the Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through aforesaid agencies for infrastructure development, modern packaging units, quality control, research and development and market development.

Free movement of workers under WTO

†1936. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether in the recent meeting of the World Trade Organisation, while preparing a draft of an agreement related to expansion of future trade, the Indian delegation alongwith proposal of discussing removal of trade bans had also placed a proposal to consider removing ban on the movement of the labourers,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) In the context of the recent discussions at the World Trade Organisation, India has stressed the need for progressive liberalisation of trade in services, particularly to facilitiate free movement of natural persons (Mode 4). The Decision adopted by the General Council on 1 August, 2004 refers to the need for high quality of offers especially in sectors and modes of supply of interest to developing countries including India and recognises the interest of developing countries as well as others in liberalisation of Mode 4. Earlier, India had submitted a proposal on liberalisation of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation. India is also working together with like-minded countries with the aim of bringing about broader

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

commitments, particularly for skilled professionals, by a larger number of WTO members. Negotiations on these issues are underway and will continue until the end of this round of negotiations on 31.12.2005.

(c) Does not arise

Revised WTO agreement

1937. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revised "Framework" agreement on global trade finalized at the World Trade Organisation meeting at Geneva recently;

(b) the extent to which India's interest has been protected in agriculture and goods, and

(c) the steps being initiated to make the Indian agriculture globally competitive in the final trade regime likely to emerge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The General Council, adopted on 1st August, 2004 by consensus of all its Members, a Decision on the Doha Work Programme incorporating framework agreements on agriculture and non-agricultural market access, and agreement to commence negotiations on Trade Facilitation The remaining three Singapore issues of Trade and Investment, Trade and Competition Policy, and Transparency in Government Procurement have been removed from the ambit of the Doha Work Programme The decision recognizes the importance of the developmental aspects of other areas including services, implementation issues and special and differential treatment and establishes time frames of the further negotiations. Finally, the Decision agreed to continue the negotiations up to the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO scheduled to be held in December 2005 in Hong Kong, China.

(b) and (c) The frameworks on agriculture and on non-agricultural goods agreed to in the WTO duly address India's interests and concerns. Throughout these negotiations, Government has been taking up specific areas of concern to India for appropriate resolution in the drafts on the framework that have been presented at various stages of the negotiations. India has also been making concerted efforts with like-minded developing